

CLAIMS:

1. An animal trap comprising:
 - a frame having an upper wall, a first side member depending from the upper wall and a second side member spaced from the first side member and depending from the upper wall;
 - 5 a striker mounted to at least one of the upper wall, the first side member and the second side member;
 - a biasing member for biasing the striker away from a plane of the upper wall;
 - a set lever for retaining the striker adjacent the upper wall; and
 - 10 a trigger operatively connected to the striker via the set lever,wherein a movement of the trigger by a predetermined distance results in movement of the trigger.
2. The trap of claim 1, further comprising a plate positioned below the upper wall approximately spanning a distance between the first side member and the second side member.
3. The trap of claim 1, wherein the trigger comprises a trigger plate pivotally mounted to the upper wall.
4. The trap of claim 3, wherein the striker comprises a wire frame dimensioned to fit around the trigger plate.
5. The trap of claim 3, wherein the trigger plate includes an opening dimensioned to receive the head of a small animal.
6. The trap of claim 5, wherein the opening comprises a notch removed from a bottom portion of the trigger plate.
7. The trap of claim 1, wherein the set lever comprises a pin.

8. The trap of claim 7, wherein the set lever includes a first end pivotally mounted to the upper wall and a second end selectively contacting the trigger.

9. A method for setting a trap in an animal's run comprising:
positioning a trap along the animal's run, wherein the trap includes a housing having an entry opening, an upper wall, a striker biased toward the a floor of the run, a set lever for setting the striker and a trigger for tripping the striker;

5 retaining the striker towards the upper wall with the set lever; and
positioning the trigger in the path of the animal's run.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of retaining further comprises positioning the set lever underneath the striker and contacting the trigger.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising positioning a floor plate on the run floor below the upper wall.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of retaining the striker includes passing a portion of the striker to a side of the trigger.

13. The method of claim 9, further comprising positioning a pin adjacent the entry opening.

14. An apparatus for trapping animals in the animal's burrow, the apparatus comprising:

a housing including an entry opening through which an animal can enter the housing;

5 a striker mounted inside the housing;

a biasing member attached to the striker inside the housing;

a set lever mounted inside the housing; and

a trigger mounted inside the housing, wherein the trigger selectively contacts the set lever.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the housing includes an upper wall and the biasing member biases the striker away from the upper wall inside the housing.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the housing includes a second opening approximately aligned with and spaced from the entry opening.

17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the trigger comprises a plate having an opening.

18. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the opening in the plate is larger than the entry opening.

19. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the set lever selectively contacts the striker inside the housing.